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OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

C. Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world (paras. 100-128)

(Section IV (Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation) of the draft Habitat agenda)

Text submitted by Working Group II on the basis of negotiations held on document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4

5. Sustainable energy use

100. The use of energy is essential in urban centres for transportation, industrial production, and household and office activities. Current dependence on fossil-fuel-based energy sources in most urban centres leads to climate change, air pollution, and consequential environmental and human health problems, and [may] represent a serious threat to sustainable development. Sustainable energy production and use can be enhanced by encouraging energy efficiency, by such means as pricing policies, fuel switching, alternative energy, mass transit, and public awareness. Human settlements and energy policies should be actively coordinated.

Actions

101. In order to promote sustainable energy use, Governments, at the appropriate levels and in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and consumer groups, should, as appropriate:

(a) Promote solutions to urban and rural planning and design that are conducive to efficient uses of energy and that pay due attention to end users and their attitudes and practices;

(b) Introduce energy-pricing policies and regulatory measures to promote the use of renewable and safe sources of energy and to improve the efficiency of energy use in human settlements, while ensuring that people living in poverty and their families are not disadvantaged;

(c) Promote energy-efficient systems, for example, by introducing or supporting innovative energy-efficient measures in the generation, distribution and use of energy, such as combined heating and cooling systems that make use of waste heat recovery, and co-generation of heating and electricity;

(d) Encourage and research, development and use of non-motorized or low-energy transport systems and the use of renewable energy sources and technologies, such as solar, wind and biomass energy;

(e) Encourage countries, in particular developing countries, to cooperate in exchanging knowledge, experience and know-how in the phasing out of lead gasoline, including through the use of biomass ethanol as an environmentally sound substitute;

(f) Introduce or amend user charges and/or other measures to promote the efficient use of household energy;

(g) Stimulate, through fiscal incentives or other measures, and adopt energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies in the rehabilitation of existing industries and services and in the construction of new ones;

(h) Support programmes for the reduction and neutralization of emissions of polluting gases, originating in the generation, transportation and use of energy;

(i) Provide for public education and media campaigns to encourage recycling, reuse and reduced energy consumption;

(j) Encourage the use of solar heating and cooling and electric technologies, energy efficient design, ventilation, and improved insulation of buildings to reduce the consumption of energy in buildings;

(k) Encourage the use of safe industrial and agricultural waste products and other types of low-energy and recycled building materials in construction;

(l) Encourage and promote the development and dissemination of new and environmentally sound technologies, including the reduction of metal compounds as part of transportation fuels, and good practices in the use of energy.

6. Sustainable transport and communication systems

102. Transport and communication systems are the key to the movement of goods, people, information, and ideas, and to access to markets, employment, schools and other facilities and land use, both within cities and between cities, and in rural and other remote areas. The transportation sector is a major consumer of non-renewable energy and of land and is a major contributor to pollution, congestion and accidents. Integrated transport and land-use policy and planning can reduce the ill effects of current transport systems. The poor, women, children, youth, older persons, and people with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged by the lack of accessible, affordable, safe, and efficient public transport systems.

102 bis. Developments in communications technologies can have a significant impact on economic activity and human settlement patterns. It is important for the potential impacts to be addressed so as to ensure that maximum benefits accrue to the community and to reduce any adverse outcomes in relation to access to services.

103. Managing transport in human settlements should be done in a way that promotes good access for all to places of work, social interaction and leisure and facilitates important economic activities, including obtaining food and other necessities of life. This should be done while reducing the negative effects of transport on the environment. Transport-system priorities should be given to reducing unnecessary travel through appropriate land-use and communication policies, developing transport policies that emphasize mobility alternatives other than the automobile, developing alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, improving the environmental performance of existing modes, and adopting appropriate pricing and other policies and regulations.

103 bis. Non-motorized transport is a major mode of mobility, particularly for low-income, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. One structural measure to counteract the socio-economic marginalization of these groups is to foster their mobility by promoting affordable, efficient and energy-saving modes of transport.

104-106. [Text to be further negotiated]

7. Conservation and rehabilitation of historical and cultural heritage

107. To promote historical and cultural continuity and to encourage broad civic participation in all kinds of cultural activities, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Identify and document, whenever possible, the historical and cultural significance of areas, sites, landscapes, ecosystems, buildings, and other objects and manifestations and establish conservation goals relevant for the cultural and spiritual development of society;

(b) Promote the awareness of such heritage in order to highlight its value and the need for its conservation and the financial viability of rehabilitation;

(c) Encourage and support local heritage and cultural institutions, associations and communities in their conservation and rehabilitation efforts and inculcate in children and youth an adequate sense of belonging to such a heritage;

(d) Promote adequate financial and legal support for the effective protection of the cultural heritage;

(e) Promote education and training in traditional skills in all disciplines appropriate to the conservation and promotion of heritage;

(f) Promote the active role of older persons as custodians of cultural heritage, knowledge, trades, and skills.

108. To integrate development with conservation and rehabilitation goals, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Recognize that the historical and cultural heritage is an important asset and strive to maintain the social, cultural and economic viability of historically and culturally important sites and communities;

(b) Preserve the inherited historical settlement and landscape forms, while protecting the integrity of the historic urban fabric and guiding new construction in historic areas;

(c) Provide adequate legal and financial support for the implementation of conservation and rehabilitation activities, in particular through adequate training of specialized human resources;

(d) Promote incentives for such conservation and rehabilitation to public, private and non-profit developers;

(e) Promote community-based action for the conservation, rehabilitation, re-generation, and maintenance of neighbourhoods;

(f) Support public and private sector and community partnerships for the rehabilitation of inner-cities and neighbourhoods;

(g) Ensure the incorporation of environmental concerns in conservation and rehabilitation projects;

(h) Take measures to reduce acid rain and other types of environmental pollution that damage buildings and other items of cultural and historical value;

(i) Adopt human settlements planning policies, including transport and other infrastructure policies, that avoid environmental degradation of historic and cultural areas;

(j) Ensure the incorporation of accessibility concerns for people with disabilities in conservation and rehabilitation projects.

8. Improving urban economies

109. Urban economies are integral to the process of economic transformation and development. They are a prerequisite for the creation of a diversified economic base capable of generating employment opportunities. Many new jobs will need to be created in urban areas. Cities currently generate more than half of national economic activities world wide. If other factors, such as population growth of and migration to cities, are addressed effectively through, inter alia, urban planning and control of the negative impacts of urbanization, cities could develop the capacity to maintain their productivity, to improve the living conditions of their residents and to manage natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way. Industry, together with trade and services, provides the main impetus to this process.

110. Cities have traditionally served as economic centres and have become the primary providers of services. As engines of economic growth and development they function within a network of supporting economic activities located in their surrounding peri-urban and rural areas. For this reason, specific actions also need to be taken to develop and maintain efficient and affordable transport, information and communications systems and linkages with other urban centres and with rural areas and to seek reasonably balanced patterns of development, both geographically and economically. Rapid changes in production technologies and in trade and consumption patterns will lead to changes in urban spatial structures that, notwithstanding their nature, need to be addressed.

111. Economic development and the provision of services can be enhanced through improved human settlements activities such as urban revitalization, construction, upgrading and maintenance of infrastructural facilities, and building and civil works. These activities are also important growth factors in the generation of employment, income and efficiency in other sectors of the economy. In turn, in combination with appropriate environmental protection policies, they result in the sustainable improvement of the living conditions of city residents as well as of the efficiency and productivity of countries.

Actions

112. To establish an effective financial base for urban development, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in cooperation with trade unions, consumer organizations, business, industry, trade, and the financial sector, including the cooperatively organized business sector and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, should:

(a) Formulate and implement financial policies that stimulate a broad range of urban employment opportunities;

(b) Encourage the formation of new public-private sector partnerships for institutions that are privately owned and managed but public in their function and purpose, and promote transparency and accountability of their operation.

113. To provide opportunities for productive employment and private investment, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in consultation with workers' and employers' organizations, chambers of commerce, industry, trade, consumer organizations, professional associations, and the financial sector, including the cooperative sector, and in the context of comprehensive urban planning, should:

(a) Implement sustainable urban development policies that take account of and respond effectively to the needs of locally owned enterprises, and are not detrimental to the natural and human environment;

(b) Facilitate access to all levels of education and training;

(c) Promote an adequate supply and the environmentally sound allocation of sufficiently serviced land for the needs of the business community, with due regard to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(d) Offer opportunities for urban economic activities by facilitating the access of new and emerging businesses, and small and medium-sized enterprises, including the informal sector, to credit and finance, and by streamlining legal and administrative procedures;

(e) Facilitate, where appropriate, the opportunity for urban horticulture;

(f) Assist informal-sector enterprises to become more productive and progressively integrated into the formal economy;

(g) Consider designating select areas for redevelopment within urban centres by providing packages of fiscal and financial incentives along with appropriate regulatory arrangements and the development of partnerships.

[114. To provide opportunities for small businesses and for the micro-enterprise and cooperative sectors, Governments at all appropriate levels, including local authorities, in consultation with non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and financial and vocational training institutions, should, as appropriate:

[(a) Facilitate the extension of protection of human rights in the field of labour to the informal sector through the implementation of relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the areas of freedom of association, discrimination, forced labour, and child labour;

[(b) Facilitate the progressive extension of measures of regulation into the informal sector, guided by the conventions and recommendations of ILO;

[(c) Institutionalize and strengthen programmes that integrate credit finance, vocational training and programmes for the transfer of technology in support of the small enterprise, micro-enterprise and cooperative sectors;

[(d) Encourage fair treatment of the informal sector and encourage links between financial institutions and non-governmental organizations that support the informal sector where it exists;

[(e) Integrate, where appropriate, the needs of the growing informal sector within the urban planning, design and management systems and encourage their transition to the formal sector.]

115. To strengthen urban economies so they may be competitive in a globalizing economy, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in consultation with all stakeholders, should, inter alia:

(a) Improve education and enhance job training in order to improve the quality of the local work-force;

(b) Support the restructuring of local industries, where appropriate, and develop urban infrastructure and services, promote a reliable, efficient and environmentally sound supply of energy and enhance telecommunication networks;

(c) Review and revise, as appropriate, the regulatory framework in order to attract private investment;

(d) Prevent crime and enhance public safety in order to make urban areas more attractive for economic, social and cultural activities;

(e) Encourage sound financial practices at all levels of Government;

(f) Promote legislative action that may be necessary to implement the above.

116. To alleviate the adverse impacts of measures for structural and economic transition, Governments at the appropriate levels, including, where appropriate, local authorities, should:

(a) Promote an integrated approach by addressing the social, economic and environmental consequences of reforms on human settlements development needs;

(b) Promote the integrated functioning of housing markets so as to avoid segregation of the social housing sector;

(c) Implement appropriate basic social programmes and adequate resource allocation, in particular those measures affecting people living in poverty, people with disabilities, other vulnerable segments of society, micro-enterprises and other small businesses;

(d) Review the impact of structural adjustment on social development by paying particular attention to gender-sensitive assessments;

(e) Design policies to promote more equitable and enhanced access to income and resources;

(f) Support, as appropriate, public and private enterprises in their efforts to adapt to the changing requirements of technological and human resources development.

9. Balanced development of settlements in rural regions

117. Urban and rural areas are interdependent economically, socially and environmentally. At the turn of the century, a substantial proportion of the world's population will continue to live in rural settlements, particularly in developing countries. In order to achieve a more sustainable future for the earth, these rural settlements need to be valued and supported. Insufficient infrastructure and services, lack of environmentally sound technology, and pollution resulting from the adverse impacts of unsustainable industrialization and urbanization contribute significantly to the degradation of the rural environment. Additionally, the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas increases rural-to-urban migration and results in a loss of human capacity in rural communities. Policies and programmes for the sustainable development of rural areas that integrate rural regions into the national economy require strong local and national institutions for the planning and management of human settlements that place an emphasis on rural-urban linkages and treat villages and cities as two ends of a human settlements continuum.

118. Rural populations, including indigenous people, play an important role in ensuring food security and in sustaining the social and ecological balance over large tracts of land in many nations and thus contribute significantly to the task of protecting biodiversity and fragile ecosystems and to the sustainable use of biological resources.

119. To promote the sustainable development of rural settlements and to reduce rural-to-urban migration, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Promote the active participation of all stakeholders, including those in isolated and remote communities, in ensuring the integrated consideration of the environmental, social and economic objectives of rural development efforts;

(b) Take appropriate measures to improve the living and working conditions in regional urban centres, small towns and rural service centres;

(c) Foster a sustainable and diversified agricultural system in order to have vibrant rural communities;

(d) Provide infrastructure, services and incentives for investment in rural areas;

(e) Promote education and training in rural areas to facilitate employment and the use of appropriate technology.

120. To promote the utilization of new and improved technologies and appropriate traditional practices in rural settlements development, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in cooperation with the private sector, should:

(a) Improve access to information on agricultural production, marketing and pricing in rural and remote areas by using, inter alia, advanced and accessible communication technologies;

(b) In cooperation with farmers' organizations, women's groups and other stakeholders, promote research and the dissemination of research findings in traditional, new and improved technologies for, inter alia, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and agro-forestry.

121. In establishing policies for sustainable regional development and management, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Promote education and training programmes and establish procedures for the full participation of rural and indigenous people in the setting of priorities for balanced and ecologically viable regional development;

(b) Make full use of geographic information systems and environmental assessment methods for the preparation of environmentally sound regional development policies;

(c) Implement regional and rural development plans and programmes based on needs and economic viability, [consistent with the goal of sustainable development];

(d) Establish an efficient and transparent system for the allocation of resources to rural areas based on people's needs, [consistent with the goal of sustainable development].

122. To strengthen [sustainable development and] employment opportunities in impoverished rural areas, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Stimulate rural development by enhancing employment opportunities, providing educational and health facilities and services, improving housing, strengthening technical infrastructure, and encouraging rural enterprises and sustainable agriculture;

(b) Establish priorities for regional infrastructure investments based on opportunities for economic return, social equity and environmental quality;

(c) Encourage the private sector to develop and strengthen contract-based wholesale markets and marketing intermediaries for rural products so as to improve and/or establish a cash-flow and futures contract economy in rural areas;

(d) Promote equitable and efficient access to markets as well as, where appropriate, pricing and payment systems for rural products, especially of food items consumed in urban areas;

(d bis) Promote products from rural areas in urban markets and rural service centres by improving the access to market information and distribution centres and networks;

(e) Reduce significantly or eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies and other programmes, such as those which stimulate the excessive use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and price control or subsidy systems that perpetuate unsustainable practices and production systems in rural and agricultural economies.

123. An integrated approach is required to promote balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural development. To achieve this objective, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, with the support of the relevant international and regional institutions, should:

(a) Provide an appropriate legal, fiscal and organizational framework that is suitable to strengthen the networks of small- and medium-sized settlements in rural areas;

(a bis) Facilitate the development of efficient communication and distribution infrastructure for the exchange of information, labour, goods, services and capital between urban and rural areas;

(b) Promote broad cooperation among local communities to find integrated solutions for land-use, transport and environmental problems in an urban-rural context;

(c) Pursue a participatory approach to balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural development, based on a continuous dialogue among the stakeholders involved in urban-rural development.

10. Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation capabilities

124. The impact on people and human settlements of natural and human-made disasters is on the increase. Disasters are frequently caused by vulnerabilities created by human actions, such as uncontrolled or inadequately planned human settlements, lack of general infrastructure and the occupation of disaster-prone areas. Armed conflicts also have consequences that effect human

settlements and the country as a whole and call for specific rehabilitation and reconstruction processes that may necessitate international involvement. The impact of such disasters and emergencies is especially severe in countries where preparedness and response capacities are ineffective in dealing with such situations.

125. The most efficient and effective systems and capacity for post-disaster response are usually provided through volunteer contributions and local authority actions at the neighbourhood level. These can operate independently and irrespective of reduced, damaged or destroyed infrastructure or capacity elsewhere. Specific actions are also required at the appropriate levels of Government, including local authorities, in partnership with the private sector and in close coordination with all community groups, to put into place disaster preparedness and response capacities that are coordinated in their planning but flexible in their implementation. The reduction of vulnerability and an increase in the capacity to respond to disasters is directly related to the degree of decentralized access to information, communication and decision-making and the control of resources. National and international cooperation networks can facilitate rapid access to specialist expertise, which can help to provide early warning of impending disasters and to mitigate their effects.

Actions

126. In improving natural and human-made disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response, Governments at the appropriate level, including local authorities, and in close consultation and cooperation with such entities as insurance companies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, organized communities, the academic, health and scientific community, should:

(a) Develop, adopt and enforce appropriate norms and by-laws for land-use, building and planning standards that are based on professionally established hazard and vulnerability assessments;

(a bis) Ensure the participation in disaster planning and management of all stakeholders, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, in recognition of their particular vulnerability to human-made and natural disasters;

(b) Encourage continued mobilization of domestic and international resources for disaster reduction activities;

(c) Promote and disseminate information on disaster-resistant construction methods and technologies for buildings and public works in general;

(d) Devise programmes to facilitate, where possible, voluntary relocation and access by all people to less disaster-prone areas;

(e) Develop training programmes on disaster-resistant construction methods for designers, contractors and builders. Some programmes should be directed particularly to small enterprises, which build the great majority of housing and other small buildings in the developing countries;

(f) Take measures to upgrade, where necessary, the resistance of important infrastructure, lifelines and critical facilities, in particular where damage can cause secondary disasters and/or constrain emergency relief operations.

[126 bis. As a consequence of the development and testing of nuclear weapons, there is a need for the safe resettlement of displaced populations and the restoration of economic activity to the effected areas, especially for small island developing States and coastal regions. Noting the special responsibility towards those people of the former United Nations Trust Territories who have been adversely affected as a result of the nuclear-weapons tests conducted during the period of the Trusteeship, all Governments and international organizations that have expertise in the field of cleanup and disposal of radioactive containments should consider giving appropriate assistance as may be required for remedial purposes in areas affected by radioactive contamination from nuclear weapons programmes.]

127. With respect to mitigation of disasters, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all stakeholders, should, as appropriate:

(a) Establish a comprehensive information system that identifies and assesses the risks involved in disaster-prone areas and integrate it into human settlements planning and design;

(b) Promote and support low-cost, attainable solutions and innovative approaches to address critical risks of vulnerable communities, including, inter alia, through risk mapping and community-focused vulnerability reduction programmes;

(c) Introduce a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities of, and communication channels between, the various key functions and actors in pre-event disaster management, mitigation and preparedness activities, such as hazard and risk assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement and emergency response;

(d) Promote and encourage all parts of society to participate in disaster preparedness planning in areas such as water and food storage, and fuel and first-aid, and in disaster prevention through activities that build a culture of safety;

(e) Strengthen and/or develop global, regional, national, and local early-warning systems to alert populations to impending disasters.

127 bis. In order to prevent technological and industrial disasters, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, as appropriate, should:

(a) Pursue the objectives of prevention of major technological accidents and the limitation of their consequences, inter alia, through land use policies and the promotion of safe technology;

(b) Take the necessary measures in order to control the siting of new developments surrounding dangerous industrial activities that may be liable to increase the risk of the effects of a major accident by appropriate consultation procedures to facilitate the implementation of the policy established under subparagraph (a) above;

(c) Introduce a clear definition of roles and responsibilities and of communication channels between the various key functions of disaster preparedness and prevention, including assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement, and emergency response;

(d) Promote and encourage broad-based participation in disaster preparedness activities by giving to the population living in the surroundings of a dangerous activity adequate and repetitive information on the potential hazards;

(e) Strengthen and/or develop global, regional, and local early-warning systems to alert populations in case of a major technological accident.

128. In preparing for and implementing post-disaster relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and resettlement, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all stakeholders, should:

(a) Establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and response systems that clearly define roles and responsibilities of, and communication channels between, the various functions and actors in disaster preparedness, and in post-event disaster management, including emergency management, relief and rehabilitation;

(b) Devise drill exercise programmes for emergency response and relief, and promote research on the technical, social and economic aspects of post-disaster reconstruction and adopt effective strategies and guidelines for post-disaster reconstruction;

(c) Establish reliable communications and response and decision-making capabilities, including at the national, local and community levels;

(d) Establish contingency plans, management and assistance systems, and arrangements for rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement;

(e) Strengthen scientific and engineering capacities for damage assessment and monitoring and for special rehabilitation and reconstruction techniques;

(f) Support all relevant stakeholders in carrying out relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities;

(g) Identify and support approaches to cope with the urgent shelter requirements of returnees and internally displaced persons;

(h) Identify approaches to ensure continuous attendance in schools;

(i) Support work for immediate removal of anti-personnel landmines following the cessation of armed conflict;

(j) Ensure that the particular needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups are considered in all communications, rescue, relocation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction;

(k) Promote a cultural dimension in post-disaster rehabilitation processes.